

831-J

SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

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25X1A

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25X1A

ACTION UNIT

FILE, VR

ACI, D/OCI, ADP

25X1A

ACTION NO.

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EYES ONLY

SECRET 020937Z MAY 71 CITE

DIRECTOR

* Hqs' guidance for handling the correspondence on the
Lowenstein Moose briefings.

25X1A

RYBAT

2 MAY IN 324000

REF:

25X1A

1. MR. MOOSE SPENT APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES IN THE
OB SHOP AND WAS GIVEN THE STANDARD OB BRIEFING, OMITTING THAT
PORTION ON CAMBODIA BUT, OUTLINING THE MECHANICS OF THE SHOT. DURING
THE BRIEFING, MR. MOOSE ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND RECEIVED
REPLIES INDICATED.

A. WHILE BRIEFING ON BIO FILE, MR. MOOSE WANTED TO
KNOW ABOUT A POW THAT WAS CAPTURED AT SITE 32 ON 29 APRIL AND
IF WE HAD ANY INFORMATION ON HIM AND WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.
COB RESPONDED THAT PRISONER PROBABLY WAS TRANSFERRED TO PHA
KHAO WHERE HE WOULD BE INTERROGATED. MR. MOOSE ASKED WHO WOULD
INTERROGATE THE PRISONER. COB RESPONDED
THAT AT PHA KHAO HE WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GEN VANG PAO
AND WOULD BE INTERROGATED BY ME0 AND LAO INTERROGATORS AND
THE AMERICANS AT THE SITE WERE ONLY THERE IN AN ADVISORY
CAPACITY. MR. MOOSE APPEARED SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION.

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B. DURING BRIEFING ON SUBJECT FILES, PARTICULARLY AAA SITES, MR. MOOSE ASKED IF FL PLAYED A PART IN OUR CONFIRMATION AND HE RECEIVED AN AFFIRMATIVE REPLY.

C. AFTER BEING ^{BE}BRIEFED ON MECHANICS OF [REDACTED], 25X1C

MR. MOOSE SAID THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN THE ENEMY STRENGTHS IN THE LAM SON 719 OPERATION^N AREA, BEFORE AND DURING THE OPERATION, AND TO WHAT EXTENT STRENGTH CHANGES WERE NOTED. THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF OB ANSWEREDTH HIS QUESTION WITH THE FOLLOWING: THE 304TH AND 2ND NVA DIVISIONS WERE OPERATING IN THIS AREA PRIOR TO LAMSON 719. AFTER THE OPERATION BEGAN, 9 BATTALIONS FROM THE 308TH DIVISION, THREE BATTALIONS FROM THE 320TH DIVISION, SIX BATTALIONS OF THE 324B DIVISION AND THREE UNIDENTIFIED ARMOR BATTALIONS ENTERED LAOS. THIS INCREASED REPRESENTED A TOTAL OF 9,200 MEN, OF WHICH 2,400 WERE SUPPORT PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO THE REGIMENTS OF THESE DIVISIONS, 750 WERE MEMBERS OF THE THREE ARMOR BATTALIONS AND THE REMAINDER WERE INFANTRY. THESE FIGURES PERTAIN ONLY TO THESE UNITS AFTER CASUALTIES HAD BEEN SUFFERED AND THAT THIS FIGURE IS PROBABLY CONSERVATIVE. THIS INFO WAS DERIVED FROM RALLIERS AND PRISONERS IN THE OPERATION. WE ALSO NOTED THAT THE ENEMY TROOP STRENGTH

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PAGE 3 VIENTIANE 39074 S E C R E T

WAS NOT REDUCED, AFTER LAMSON 719 ENDED.

D. MR. MOOSE ASKED WHAT OTHER SOURCES WERE EMPLOYED TO DETERMINE THE ENEMY STRENGTH IN THIS AREA PRIOR TO LAMSON 719. WE ANSWERED THAT WE HAVE HAD ONLY A FEW ASSETS IN THE AREA AND HAVE DEPENDED PRIMARILY ON MACV, THROUGH OUR LIAISON CHANNELS, AND THAT THIS AREA WAS PRIMARILY A MACV AREA OF INTEREST, WHEREAS WE CONCENTRATED ON INTEL COLLECTION FURTHER TO THE WEST. MR. MOOSE TOOK NOTES ONLY DURING THIS PHASE OF THE BRIEFING AND COPIED DOWN THE ENEMY STRENGTHS WE GAVE HIM.

2. IN SUMMATION, MR. MOOSE SEEMED MAINLY INTERESTED IN THE POW CAPTURED AT SITE 32 AND ENEMY STRENGTHS IN THE LAM SON AREA. HE ASKED NO QUESTIONS OTHER THAN THOSE NOTED ABOVE. CAMBODIA WAS NOT MENTIONED BY MR. MOOSE. GP-1

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DIRECTOR

*Hqs' guidance regarding handling correspondence on
the Lowenstein Moose briefings.

RYBAT

2 MAY IN 324594

REF:

25X1A

1.

MET LOWENSTIEN AND MOOSE AT 7/13 TH AF

AT 1100 HOURS LOCAL AND THE PARTY ARRIVED SHORTLY THEREAFTER AT

BASE. BRIEFINGS COMMENCED IMMEDIATELY IN JLD CONFERENCE ROOM WITH

LOWENSTIEN, MOOSE,

PRESENTED FOLLOWING BRIEFING AGENDA TO LOWENSTIEN AND MOOSE WHICH

THEY READILY ACCEPTED:

NORTH LAOS OPERATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS.

SOUTH LAOS OPERATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS.

CHICOM ROAD ACTIVITY.

PRISONERS OF WAR, NVA, PL, AND AMERICAN

BREAK FOR LUNCH WITH CONSUL TOM BARNES

TOUR OD WORKSHOP

TOUR PI WORKSHOP

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PAGE 2 [REDACTED] SECRET

WRAPUP WITH CHIEF OF BASE

25X1A

2. [REDACTED] STARTED BRIEFING BY COVERING BASE ORGANIZATION

25X1A

AND FUNCTIONS, CURRENT [REDACTED] FORCE LEVELS, PROJECT FORCE LEVELS
SINCE FY 67, AND ENEMY FORCE LEVELS. DURING THIS PORTION
OF THE BRIEFING, LOWENSTIEN AND MOOSE WERE PROVIDED WITH STATISTICS
AS DIRECTED IN REF B.

3. BOTH OFFICERS APPEARED RELAXED AND DOCILE AND THERE WAS NO
INDICATION OF AGGRESSIVENESS AS INDICATED IN OTHER TRAFFIC. THE
BRIEFINGS WERE CONDUCTED ON AN INFORMAL BASIS WITH A GOOD INTERCHANGE
BETWEEN THE BRIEFERS, L&M, [REDACTED] BRIEFED
ON BASE ORGANIZATION AND RELATIONSHIP OF BASE BOTH TO STATION AND TO
THE UNITS. THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS ON THE PART OF L&M. ON CURRENT
[REDACTED] FORCE LEVELS L&M WERE GIVEN SUCH LEVELS BY MR AS INDICATED
IN REF B AND AGAIN THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS. THEY WERE
SHOWN A CHART ON PROJECT FORCE LEVELS SINCE FY 67 WHICH PORTRAYED
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:



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TIME: 21 Apr 71

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25X1A

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25X1A (elite) (reference number) (pic)

25X1A

SECRET

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CITE [REDACTED]

25X1A

[REDACTED] INFORMATION VIENTIANE

25X1A

RYBAT [REDACTED]

25X1A

REF: [REDACTED]

25X1A

1. WE ARE REPEATING REFTEL TO YOU SO THAT YOU CAN DISCUSS

IT WITH AMBASSADOR UNGER IF HE SHOULD ASK WHAT GUIDANCE HAS
BEEN GIVEN ON HANDLING LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE. STATE AND
DEFENSE ARE HAVING PROBLEMS AGREEING ON A GUIDANCE CABLE TO
BE SENT TO BOTH AMBASSADORS. BOTH DEPARTMENTS WISH TO
RESTRICT THE AMBASSADORS' STATEMENTS ON AFFAIRS CONCERNING
OUR ACTIVITIES, [REDACTED]

25X6

25X6

[REDACTED] WE ARE TRYING TO STAY OUT OF THIS AND ARE UNWILLING TO
GO ON RECORD CONCURRING IN A CABLE SO RESTRICTING THE AMBAS-
SADORIAL PREROGATIVES. DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT WILL FINALLY
BE SENT TO FIELD BUT BELIEVE BOTH AMBASSADORS WILL WANT TO

/CON'D/

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CITE DI

DISCUSS WITH STATION CHIEFS REFTTEL GUIDANCE. TRY TO GET ACROSS
TO THEM THAT WE WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF CANDOR, BUT NOT
MUCH IN THE WAY OF FACTS, TO THE STAFFDEL.

END OF MESSAGE

* Guidance on the briefing of Messrs. Lowenstein and Moose.

25X1A

25X1A

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CONF [REDACTED] 25X1A DDP ADD K. NOLC VR EYES ONLY 20 20 39z APR 71 SECRET

(classification) (date and time filed) (elite) (reference number) (pics)

TO VIENTIANE

25X1A RYBAT [REDACTED]

REF: [REDACTED] IN 313857) *

25X1A 1. LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE ARE CONSULTANTS SFRC, BUT TERMS SUCH AS STAFF MEMBERS, CONSULTANTS, ETC. ARE USED LOOSELY AND DO NOT AFFECT LEVEL OF INFORMATION TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN PRIVY. IN EFFECT THEY ARE REPLACEMENTS FOR PINCUS AND PAUL ON THE SYMINGTON SUBCOMMITTEE. WE UNDERSTAND BOTH HAVE HAD ACCESS TO [REDACTED] TESTIMONY PARA TWO REF AND PRESUME THEY HAVE REVIEWED PINCUS AND PAUL'S FAMOUS 3 BY 5 CARD FILE. WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF FORTHRIGHTNESS IN FIELD'S REPLIES TO MOOSE/LOWENSTEIN REQUESTS AND AVOID, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, REFERRAL TO WASHINGTON ON QUESTIONS POSED. WE ARE PERFECTLY WILLING

/CON'd/

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PAGE TWO

TO



BUT *DIRECT*
TO ANSWER QUESTIONS HERE ~~AND~~ BELIEVE ~~FORWARD~~, BUT ADROIT,
REPLIES IN THE FIELD WILL ~~EXSKEKX~~ DISPEL MUCH SUSPICION.
MOOSE AND LOWENSTEIN DO NOT UNDERSTAND DOD INVOLVEMENT
WITH FUNDING, LOGISTICS, AIR SUPPORT, ETC. WE WOULD LIKE TO
KEEP THEM OUT OF THIS. WE ASSESS THAT THEY ARE NOT AS
METHODICAL AS PINCUS AND PAUL AND WILL BE MORE EASILY
HANDLED. NEVERTHELESS YOU SHOULD NOT GIVE THEM AN INTIMATE
PICTURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH DOD, SUCH AS THE CURRENT
NEGOTIATIONS IN THE CLAY COMMITTEE AND THE COMING DEBATE
OVER THE ROLE OF THE AMBASSADOR. STAY AWAY FROM DETAILS,
DO NOT VOLUNTEER, AND ADOPT THE DOCTRINE OF RESTRAINED
CANDOR.

2. YOUR PLANS FOR THE UDORN VISIT APPEAR FINE. WE
HAVE HEARD NOTHING FROM LOWENSTEIN DIRECTLY, AND HE MAY

/CON'D/

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(pics)

PAGE THREE

CITE [REDACTED]

TO [REDACTED]

NEVER FOLLOW UP ON HIS REQUEST. BE PREPARED TO TAKE HIM
IF NECESSARY BUT, AGAIN, DO NOT VOLUNTEER. SEE NO OBJECTION

25X1A

TO DISCUSSING [REDACTED] SINCE BOTH MEN HAVE APPROPRI-

(SEE ALSO SEPARATE CHANNEL ADVICE ALREADY SENT YOUR STATION) X
ATE CLEARANCES. LET [REDACTED] HANDLE [REDACTED] TACAIR AND ARC

25X1A

25X1A

LIGHT MATTERS SINCE THESE ARE NOT OUR BAG. SYMINGTON SUB-
COMMITTEE TESTIMONY COVERED REQUEST FOR STRIKES, TARGET
AUTHENTICATION, ETC. AND OUR ROLE WAS MINOR. LET'S KEEP IT
THAT WAY. STRESS FACT THAT [REDACTED] DOES NOT VALIDATE TAR-
GETS SINCE EXPECT THIS PROBLEM TO BECOME A HOT POLITICAL

25X1A

POTATO NEXT WEEK, AS CONGRESSMAN MC CLOSKEY AND SENATOR
KENNEDY ^{GET INTO} ~~PLAY POLITICS WITH~~ LAOTIAN MATTERS. BE CAREFUL ON
THE SOUTH LAOS INTERDICTION PROGRAM. WE HAVE TOLD LOWEN-

25X1C STEIN AND MOOSE THAT [REDACTED]

25X1C [REDACTED]

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TO

25X1C

25X1C NO OBJECTIONS TO DETAILED RUNDOWN ON [REDACTED] BUT WOULD
 25X1A PREFER YOU DO NOT GET INTO THE HISTORY OF [REDACTED] /MACV/SOG
 25X1A COORDINATION ON PRAIRIE FIRE SINCE IT MIGHT LEAD TO OTHER
 25X1A RELATED SUBJECTS WHICH WE DO NOT WISH DISCUSSED.

3. REF PARA FIVE TREATMENT OF [REDACTED] IS OKAY.
 REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT TO DISCUSS CONTINGENCY PLANS ^{DISCUSSIONS OF} ~~SECRET~~
 BUDGETARY MATTERS AND PERSONNEL STRENGTHS OFTEN LEAD TO
 CONTINGENCY DISCUSSIONS. PLEASE REFER SUCH QUESTIONS TO HQS.

/CON'D/

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GENERAL LEVELS OF CURRENT PERSONNEL, OF COURSE, CAN BE
~~DISCUSSED~~ DISCUSSED.

END OF MESSAGE

*Requests guidance on positions of Lowenstein and Moose as well as on
their handling during their visit.

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Thomas H. Karamessines
DDP

25X1A

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